

My Perfin from Bushire

By Dick Mewhinney (LM#60)

In Bulletin #159 of the SEPS (now the British Perfins Society) I first learned of a perfin from Bushire. Over the years one of them came my way along with a certificate of authenticity from the Expert Committee of the British Philatelic Association Ltd.

Little did I know what a rarity I had until I learned that it was the only one reported in the Perfins Club survey of foreign perfins. I then requested that anyone in the British Society who had one please contact me. No answers to this. I almost might consider this a unique item – but without strong proof.

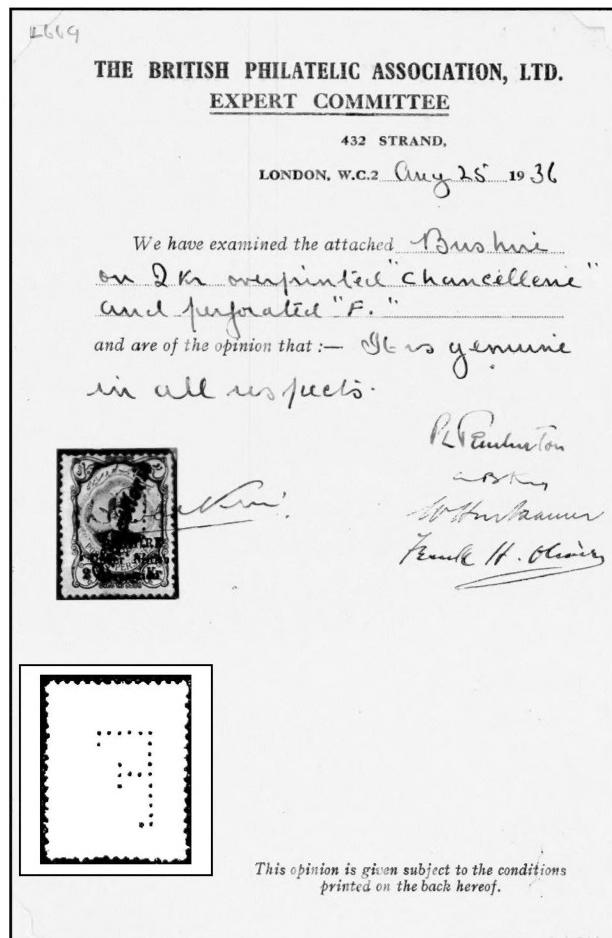
In the 1975 article in the SEPS Bulletin (#159) Michael Burrows wrote:

"The Persian seaport of Bushire was occupied by the British on 8 August 1915. In the autumn, the viceroy of India addressed the Indian Legislative Council and announced that the occupation would continue until the Persian Government took over the control of Bushire on 16 October 1915, thereby bringing the British occupation to a close.

"During the occupation, various Persian stamps that were on hand were overprinted, probably by native labour, on a small hand press obtained from the British Residency. However, the so-called officials have never been, to my knowledge, given catalog status."

There is some more to this article including an illustration of a strip of 3 of the official stamps perfinned with the 'F' which was part of the War

stamp collection of the Marquis of Bute, auctioned by Robinson Lowe in late May 1959.



These stamps were authorized for use for a period of just over one month. The same perfin can be found on the stamps of Persia listed in the World Perfins Catalog as CO.5, user unknown. I would still like to learn of any other copies of this perfin.